

bills that have the support of the majority of the majority, the only thing they are going to let happen—doesn't work, and it is bad for the country. Any major legislation passed by the House of Representatives with only Republican votes has no hope of advancing here or being signed into law by the President.

I hope the Speaker has learned his lesson from recent high-profile failures of his shortsighted Hastert rule—post office, farm bill, online sales tax, immigration. Eventually he will be forced to take up the bill we passed here or the country will be left with no immigration reform at all, which will be a bad outcome.

The Speaker should dispense with the posturing and delay and do the right thing, and he should do it now. He should take up the Senate farm bill on which Chairman STABENOW worked so hard. They should pass that bill. They should take it up over there and pass it. Farmers are waiting, and all the nutrition groups around the country are waiting. He should do that right now.

He should take up the Senate immigration bill. I say that for the second or third time today. This measure—a farm bill that passed overwhelmingly on bipartisan votes in this Chamber—the passing of the farm bill would create jobs and reduce the debt by some \$23 billion. And it is important to note that there are reforms both in the farm and food stamp programs without balancing the budget on the backs of hungry Americans. In fact, it goes a long way toward reducing our debt.

Passing the immigration bill would help 11 million people who are already contributing to our economy and our society to get right with the law. It would boost our economy and make our country safer, all the while reducing the deficit by about \$1 trillion over the next two decades.

I remind the Speaker that there is no shame in passing bills that moderates from both parties can support. Americans want their elected officials to work together to fix the Nation's problems. This is what we did in the Senate. I promise the formula will work in the House of Representatives as well. The Speaker should try that.

Sticking to the Hastert rule has prevented the House from passing legislation to reform the ailing Postal Service. Postal reform passed over here on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. The Speaker refused to even consider it last Congress, didn't even take it up.

Sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing a measure that would give brick-and-mortar stores parity with online competitors. We passed that on a bipartisan vote. It is heartbreaking all over America. I see it in Nevada when I go by these strip malls and see places that, if they had the advantage of not having to pay sales tax—which is what happens online—they would be in business. They would go back into business if the sales tax would have to be paid by the people

who sell their goods over the Internet. It is unfair. Why the Speaker doesn't take that up I don't know.

We already know that sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing a farm bill last month and last year.

This month sticking to the Hastert rule prevented the House from passing immigration reform that would become law.

Insisting on the Hastert rule also prevented Speaker BOEHNER from reaching across the aisle to find a sensible solution to our rising student loan interest rates. Right now, what they have done on the other side is worse for students than doing nothing at all. The legislation passed by the House would balance the budget on the backs of struggling students—would attempt to balance it, at least. The House legislation is worse for students than doing nothing at all. Under the House plan, as interest rates start to rise, student loan rates will rise with them. Soon loan rates will be more than double. I met with the White House, one of the President's assistants. I said: Tell me what happens in 3 years. He had to acknowledge that the rates would be well over 6.8 percent.

To find a responsible solution to the student loan issue and every other major issue facing this Congress, the Speaker should work with us and his Democratic colleagues in the House instead of against them. He should remember that the only way to pass meaningful legislation in either Chamber is to do so with votes from both reasonable Democrats and reasonable Republicans.

I am told the Speaker is going to come out with a statement today saying: We passed our student loan legislation. Now why can't the Senate pass it?

I repeat, the Speaker's student loan legislation that passed the House is worse than doing nothing. The Hastert rule has been bad for this country, and Speaker BOEHNER should get away from it.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business and that Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each prior to the executive session at 5 p.m., with the exception of Senator SCOTT, who is giving his maiden speech today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business for the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in a period of morning business

until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

UNLEASHING OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. SCOTT. It is indeed a humbling honor to serve the great people of South Carolina in the Senate. I am so grateful for the support I have received from South Carolinians.

The success of the Palmetto State can be measured in many ways, but today, let me share the success of our economic engine. From insourcing jobs from other countries, jobs such as Otis Elevators in Florence, SC, or the high-tech boom that is happening throughout South Carolina, companies such as BMW in the upstate continue to expand. Michelin, in Anderson County expands. Continental Tires finds a home in Sumter, SC, and there are more than 5,000 new jobs on the coast of South Carolina because of Boeing. And let's not forget Aiken, SC, where Bridgestone has made a new home. South Carolina is and will continue to be a leading manufacturing engine for America.

I stand before you today on the shoulders of two very amazing Americans. One has gone home to be with the Lord. The other is my hero, my mother, Frances Scott.

Growing up in a single-parent household, my mother would have to work sometimes 16-hour days in order to keep me and my brother off of welfare. She wanted us to have a good example of someone who believed in hard work for us to follow.

My mother used to tell me all the time that if you shoot for the Moon and you miss, you will be among the stars. But I didn't always listen to my mother. By the time I was a freshman in high school, I was drifting. Have you ever noticed that you don't really drift in the right direction? As a freshman in high school, I failed out. I failed world geography. I think I am the only U.S. Senator to fail civics. I also failed Spanish and English.

When you fail Spanish and English, they don't call you bilingual. They call you bi-ignorant because you can't speak in any language.

That's where I found myself. I found myself in a very strong and hard position, but good fortune strikes. I had two blessings. One was a mother who believes that sometimes love has to come at the end of the switch. For those of you who are not aware of what a switch is, it is a motivational apparatus, and it encouraged me a lot. I will say that, along with my mentor John Moniz, who came along at the right time—I was a sophomore—I found my way back on the path. John Moniz was a Chick-fil-A operator who made such a major impact in my life over the last three decades.